GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a special legislation to reorganise the State Housing Boards and strengthen the cooperative housing movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a conference of the Housing Ministers of States and Secretaries was held recently to discuss the issues relating to the housing sector;

(d) if so, the details of issues discussed therein;

(e) the details of suggestions made therein; and

(f) the extent to which the Government agree to these recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government propose to reorganise the housing agencies in the States & advised them to prepare a new Housing Board Act. The proposed Act would combine the advantages that are available to a corporatised body, such as flexibility and speed in decision making with the advantages that are inherent in the agency enjoying sovereign powers of the State, such as land acquisition and recovery of the dues as arrears of land revenue.

(c)&(d): A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Housing was held in New Delhi on 26-27 June, 2000. Following consisted of the agenda items for discussion in the conference:-

i) Follow up of National Housing & Habitat Policy, 1998.

ii) Fiscal concessions in the Housing Sector.

(iii) Legal reforms which may be necessary to strengthen the housing sector.

iv) Cost effective housing technology promotion.

v) Review of the progress of the Two Million Housing Programme.

vi) Strengthening of State Housing Boards.

(e)&(f): The main recommendations of the Conference cover the following:-

+ Reorganisation of housing agencies in the country and preparation of a new Housing Board Act.

+ Enactment of a separate legislation for Housing Cooperative Societies.

+ Conversion of the scheme of National Slum Development Programme into a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and its integration with a new programme.

+ Adoption of innovative and cost effective technologies suitable to local conditions.

+ State Governments to consider setting up of Land Banks and use it as a resource for development also to ensure rationalised land use and equitable distributions.

+ State Governments to favourably consider exemption of houses of EWS & LIG from stamp Duty.

+ Government broadly agrees with these recommendation.